

PERCENT OF LIVE BIRTHS WITH LOW BIRTHWEIGHT

Objective

By 1990, low birthweight babies (under 2,500 grams) should constitute no more than five percent of all live births.

Findings

Neither North Carolina nor the United States met this objective. It appears that this target is unrealistic. N.C. has fluctuated between 7.9 and 8.1 percent since 1976; the U.S. has remained stable at about 6.9 since 1979.

Related National Objectives for the Year 2000

- o Reduce low birth weight to an incidence of no more than five percent of live births and very low weight births to no more than one percent of live births.
- o Reduce low birth weight among blacks to an incidence of no more than nine percent of live births and very low weight births to no more than two percent of live births.

Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health and Environmental Statistics
United States: National Center for Health Statistics